

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of displaying image data bits, said method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving an image data word for an image pixel, said image data word comprised of at least a first and second image data bit;
 - dividing an image frame period into at least two refresh periods;
 - displaying said first image data bit during some, but not all, of said refresh periods; and
 - displaying said second image data bit during more of said refresh periods than said first image data bit was displayed during.
2. A method of allocating a frame period to image data bits, said method comprising the steps of:
 - dividing a frame period into at least two refresh periods;
 - allocating a display period to each image data bit in an m-bit image data word;
 - determining the a minimum temporal frequency for each of said image data bits, said minimum temporal frequency necessary to prevent each said image data bit from appearing to flicker; and
 - displaying each said image data bit in enough of said refresh periods to achieve said minimum temporal frequency, wherein not all of said image data bits are displayed in all of said refresh periods.
3. A display system comprising:
 - a controller for receiving image data and processing said image data, said image data comprised of m image bits for each pixel of an image, said processing allocating a

series of refresh periods to said image bits such that not all of said image bits are displayed in the same number of said refresh periods; and

a display device in electrical communication with said controller, said display device for providing a modulated light beam to each of an array of image pixels, said modulation in response to said processed image data from said controller.